(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the reasons why the remaining flats of DDA could not be sold in Narela;

(d) whether Government would take steps to bring improvement in quality of material to be used in construction of flats by DDA; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRIO. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.The DDA have reported that it had launched the 'Narela Housing Scheme-2002' for disposal of vacant DDA flats on 20% discount. This Scheme was open during the period 15.5.2002 to 14.6.2002 which was later extended to 28.6.2002. This 20% discount was given with the approval of the competent authority.

(c) The DDA have reported that for quite some time the disposal of Wats in Narela was not on the expected lines chiefly on account of nonavailability of water and electricity and lack of infrastructure and also because it is very far off from the business districts of South/Central Delhi. Further, it is relatively a new development area. Now, water and electricity is available there.

(d) and (e) The DDA have reported that the quality of the materials used in the construction of flats is regularly checked by the concerned field staff. Besides this, Quality Control Cell of DDA also check the quality of materials at random. If the materials failed to meet the required standard during testing, necessary corrective action is taken.

Construction of houses under Awas Yojana Schemes

584. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to construct fifty thousand dwelling units under the various Awas Yojana Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether work of construction has already started and if so, when;

(d) the amount sanctioned for these housing projects and the amount released so far; and

(e) by when the first phase of construction is likely to be completed and will be ready for allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRIO. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Housing is a State subject.The Government through the National Agenda for Governance have declared 'Housing for AH' as a priority area and has decided to focus on the housing needs of citizens in general and that of the poor and the deprived in particular. Towards this end, the Agenda sets a target of construction of additional 2 million houses (7 lakh units *m* Urban areas and 13 lakh units in Rural areas) every year.

A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme called the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) has been launched. VAMBAY is to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for people living below poverty line including members of the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) who do not possess adequate shelter in Urban slums with a sub-component of Community Toilets.The Scheme will be implemented by the State Governments/Union Terriotries with 50% of the project cost as Central subsidy and the balance to be met by the States in the form of contribution or loan.

During 2001-2002, allocation of Rs. 73.56 crore was distributed to 16 States/Union Territories as subsidy under VAMBAY. During 2002-2003, funds to the extent of Rs. 44.20 crore have been sanctioned for 9 States/ Union Territories inclusive of special subsidy for the riot victims of Gujarat for repairs/reconstruction of houses.

Subletting and Commercial uee of General Pool Accommodation

585. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules prohibit subletting and commercial use of general pool accommodation by the allottees;

(b) if so, the number of raids, inspections carried out by the Directorate of Estates during the last five years to unearth such illegal use/occupation, year-wise; and